

Meet Duxbury

Laurie Hunter

Assistant Superintendent of Duxbury Public Schools



Laurie Hunter serves as Assistant Superintendent of Duxbury Public Schools.

BY: JP O'NEIL,
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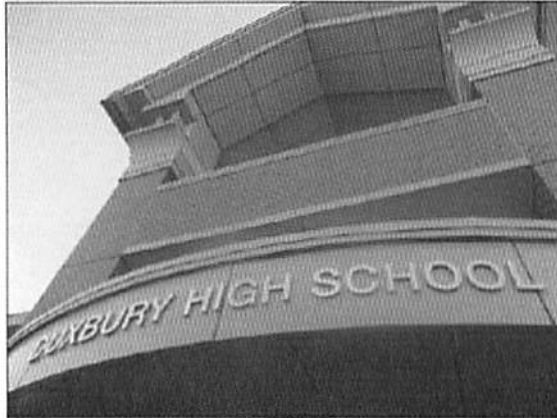
Laurie Hunter is set to enter her third year as Assistant Superintendent of Duxbury Public Schools. With a year of experience at both the old school and the new school, Hunter has been able to help the students adjust to the new ways of learning.

"My role as Assistant Superintendent has been primarily what I would have expected. I get the gift of owning curriculum instruction and assessment," Hunter said. "However, the pace of change has been faster than I would have expected. The administration team and I have already made a lot of new adjustments. Also, the new buildings and laptops have changed our style of teaching. All positive, but you can't do too much at once."

The change at first could be overwhelming for some students, but as time has gone on, the level of comfort seems to be increasing.

"It is almost surreal for us at times. I was walking through yesterday and thinking back a year ago we would walk through construction and now to be standing here takes us back," Hunter said. "I think we've had some really great surprises such the open spaces and how much the team spaces are being used. The seating down on Main Street is also being used quite a bit. It's a nice spot for kids to stop and be together before and after school. Overall, what a fantastic facility and learning environment."

Duxbury has all the resources and people to be on the cutting edge of technology for a long time.



The new Duxbury High School opened last fall.

Being involved at the schools is a perfect fit for Hunter's personality.

"I love being with kids and teachers. I stay very connected with the administrative team too," Hunter said. "I enjoy having a pulse of what's going on in the schools, and feeling like I'm having a positive impact. It's nice to see the fruits of your labor."

Growing up, Hunter believed teaching was the ideal job for her. "At a middle school age, I spent some time at summer camps volunteering because I wasn't old enough to get paid anywhere, and that's where I fell in love with teaching, I loved being with the kids. I knew that's what I wanted to do and nothing else was really up for discussion," she said.

Hunter, however, never

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 1

thought that being an administrator was what she would have wanted most.

"It was actually not a job I ever thought I wanted. I've been quoted as a teacher and a principal saying I'd never want that job and then I landed in exactly the job I said I didn't want," Hunter said. "I wanted to have a bigger impact while I was at the position below. I felt that since I have been successful and effective at the teaching and principal level, that I could do this on another level and have a more of a positive impact on more kids and more teachers."

Hunter is very happy with the position she is in today. Her role as Assistant Superintendent is never the same two days in a row. "Many times it's meeting with folks or going out into classrooms. The role is fairly self directed. I like to be engaged and visible. A lot of paper work needs to get done, too. Sometimes there is also some unexpected issues that take top priority,"

Hunter said. "My day is truly unpredictable. I'd much rather be out visiting the schools than sitting at my desk all day."

Hunter brings a very accomplished background to Duxbury. She received her Bachelors in Elementary Education from Boston College, her Masters from Harvard University, and recently, her Doctorate from Nova Southeastern. If Hunter had gone a different direction from a teacher or administrator, she would most like to do some sort of counseling or social work. An interesting fact about Hunter is she directs the handbell choir at her church.

Hunter lives in Northborough, Massachusetts with her husband and two daughters: a freshman in High School and a seventh grader. "I appreciate a lot of little moments of life. My family and I love going to Bar Harbor, Maine every Summer," Hunter said. "We do the same activities over and over and watching my kids grow is a treat."

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